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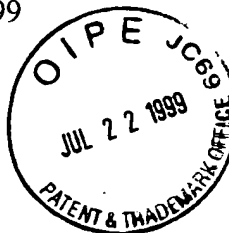
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**REGISTERED PATENT AGENTS

July 22, 1999



WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/266,936; Filed: March 12, 1999
For: **Novel Filler and Pigment**
Inventor: SILENIUS, Petri
Our Ref: 1562.011000/MAC/SEZ

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (*in duplicate*);
2. Form PTO-1449, nine (9) pages, citing fifty-nine (59) documents (Document Nos. AA1-AH1, AL1-AP1, AR1-AT1, AL2-AP2, AR2-AT2, AL3-AP3, AR3-AT3, AL4-AP4, AR4-AT4, AL5-AP5, AR5-AT5, AL6, AR6-AT6, AR7-AT7, AR8-AT8 and AR9;
3. One copy of each of the fifty-nine (59) cited documents; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
July 22, 1999
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Suzanne E. Ziska
Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 43,371

Enclosures

4#

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SILENIUS, Petri

Appl. No. 09/266,936

Filed: March 12, 1999

For: **Novel Filler and Pigment**

Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: *To be assigned*

Atty. Docket: 1562.0110000/MAC/SEZ

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Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. A copy of each of these documents is provided.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/006,656, filed January 13, 1998; 09/154,158, filed September 16, 1998; 09/154,157, filed on September 16, 1998; 09/154,159, filed on September 16, 1998; 09/153,481, filed on September 16, 1998; and 09/309,604, filed on May 11, 1999, which are directed to related technical subject matter. Document **AN5** is the European application that corresponds to U.S. Application No. 09/006,656. Document **AO5** is the European application that corresponds to U.S. Application No. 09/154,159. Document **AP5** is the European application that corresponds to U.S.

Application No. 09/154,157. Document **AL6** is the European application that corresponds to U.S. Application No. 09/153,481.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), Applicant's undersigned representative submits the following concise explanations of the relevance of the non-English language documents, Document Nos. **AO1**, **AP1**, **AL2**, **AM2**, **AN2**, **AL3**, **AM3**, **AO3**, **AM4**, **AP4**, **AM5**, **AR6**, **AR7**, and **AR8** cited on Form PTO 1449:

Document **AO1**, Finnish Patent Publication No. 74215, is believed to disclose a composition consisting of a dispersed talc suitable for coating paper. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AS2**.

Document **AP1**, Finnish Patent Publication No. 63614, is believed to disclose a pigment for paper coating using natural calcium carbonate as sole pigment. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AT2**.

Document **AL2**, Finnish Patent Publication No. 66221, is believed to disclose a pigment for paper coating consisting predominantly of a layer lattice silicate. This formulation is suitable for pigmenting lightweight paper. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AR3**.

Document **AM2**, French Patent Publication No. 2 468 688, is believed to disclose a composition containing natural calcium carbonate as a sole pigment. This formulation is applied as a paper coating. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AS3**.

Document **AN2**, Finnish Patent Publication No. 67568, is believed to disclose a composition of gypsum pigments or fillers and a method of preparing the pigment. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AT3**.

Reference **AL3**, Finnish Patent Publication No. 884196, is believed to disclose a composition consisting of a pigment, cationic aqueous polymer dispersion, and a polymeric dispersant. The formulation is applied to both sides of paper to improve its printability. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Reference **AR4**.

Document **AM3**, Finnish Patent Publication No. 96695, is believed to disclose a composition for a pigment mixture consisting of calcium carbonate and/or dolomite and talc, as well as a method of production of the pigment mixture. The pigment mixture is for use as a paper coating. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AS4**.

Document **AO3**, Swedish Patent Publication No. 500 472, is believed to disclose a composition consisting of a pulp fiber mixture including a high-yield pulp, a chemical pulp and a coating layer. This formulation is applied to at least one side of paper to improve its printability. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AT4**.

Document **AM4**, Finnish Patent Publication No. 932475, is believed to disclose a composition consisting of concentrated aqueous suspensions of cationically dispersed particulate inorganic material. This formulation is used as pigments or fillers in paper coating compositions. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AR5**.

Document **AP4**, German Patent Publication No. 44 11 987 A1, is believed to disclose a composition consisting of mechanical and chemical pulp and recycling fibers. This formulation is applied on both sides and coated with a calender. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AS5**.

Document **AM5**, Finnish Patent Publication No. 961026, is believed to disclose a method for coating a paper or paperboard web by at least two coat layers to achieve a smooth coat with

high opacifying power. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AT5**.

Document **AR6**, is believed to describe the advantages of thermomechanical pulp (TMP) over conventional mechanical pulp. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AS6**.

Document **AR7**, is believed to investigate the addition of aspen groundwood in pulp blends for production of letterpress paper. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AS7**.

Document **AR8**, is believed to discuss the development of the groundwood-from-chips process and the advantages of this type of pulp over conventional groundwood. An English language abstract of this document is provided as Document **AS8**.

The identification of these U.S. Patent Applications is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to those applications now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited applications and the art cited therein during examination.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that had been cited or

submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date but before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. No statement or fee is required.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Suzanne E. Ziska
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Date: July 22, 1999

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